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1 of 6
GHOST RIDERS
HEAVEN'S ON FIRE
AARON
BOSCHI
PARENTAL ADVISORY
DIRECT EDITION
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GHOST RIDER

JOHNNY BLAZE IS CURSED, DOOMED TO LIVE LIFE AS THE GHOST RIDER, A BRUTAL SPIRIT THAT EXISTS ONLY TO METE OUT VENGEANCE AGAINST EVILDOERS. AFTER YEARS SPENT BEING A PAWN OF HELL, BLAZE HAS RECENTLY LEARNED THAT THE GHOST RIDER IS ACTUALLY A WEAPON OF HEAVEN, BONDED TO HIM BY THE RENEGADE ANGEL ZADKIEL. AT LONG LAST, BLAZE KNOWS EXACTLY WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR RUINING HIS LIFE.

JOHNNY BLAZE'S BROTHER, DANNY KETCH, WAS RECENTLY TRICKED BY ZADKIEL INTO GATHERING TOGETHER THE POWERS OF ALL THE GHOST RIDERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. AFTER ZADKIEL USED THAT POWER TO CONQUER HEAVEN, DANNY AND JOHNNY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. NEITHER OF THEM EXPECTS THE WORLD TO BE AROUND FOR MUCH LONGER, AS ZADKIEL IS NOW CLOSE TO WIELDING ULTIMATE POWER OVER ALL CREATION.

THE ODDS DON'T LOOK GOOD, BUT THAT'S NEVER STOPPED JOHNNY BEFORE. WITH THE HELP OF SISTER SARA, THE LAST OF THE CARETAKERS, THE KEEPERS AND GUIDES OF THE GHOST RIDERS, HE SETS OFF AFTER ZADKIEL.

THE ONLY THING THEY'VE GOT TO DO IS FIND A WAY TO GET TO HEAVEN.

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TWO WEEKS AGO.
THEY CAME AT DAWN. THEY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.
WE WERE ALL ASLEEP AFTER THE NIGHT'S SERVICE. THEY HAD SWORDS. THEY CAME IN AND JUST STARTED... THEY...
THEY HAD THESE BLACK LIFELESS EYES, LIKE SHARKS. THEY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. THEY JUST CAME RIGHT IN AND...
AND *HACKED* EVERYBODY APART.
WE TRIED TO FIGHT BACK, BUT THEY WERE TOO STRONG. WE PRAYED FOR PROTECTION, BUT NONE CAME. THEY KILLED EVERYONE. EVERYONE BUT ME.
OH LORD, IT WAS HORRIBLE.
WHO WERE THEY?

THEY WERE ANGELS.
WHAT WERE THEY AFTER? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I CAN'T... I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK ABOUT...
I DO, PLEASE, I DO.
DO YOU WANT MY HELP OR NOT?
BREED STOCK
THIS IS PROJECT BLACKHEART. THIS IS WHERE WE'VE BEEN WORKING TO GIVE OUR MASTER THE PERFECT SON.
TO SUCCEED WHERE HE HIMSELF HAD PREVIOUSLY...UH... WELL, YOU KNOW... MISCALCULATED.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE ANTICHRIST. YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO BREED ONE, HAVEN'T YOU?
WE HAVE. WE'VE SPENT YEARS GATHERING THE MOST IDEAL PARENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. PROSTITUTES, SEXUAL DEVIANTS, SERIAL KILLERS, PSYCHOPATHS, CANNIBALS, CEOS.
WE'VE BEEN MATING THEM, LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT COMBINATION.
BY THE HADEAN CHIMES, THIS IS MADNESS!

IN THE MIDST OF THE MASSACRE, I MANAGED TO ESCAPE, BUT I ONLY HAD TIME TO RESCUE ONE OF THEM, JUST ONE OF OUR MANY CHILDREN.
I TOLD HIM TO RUN AS FAR AS HE COULD AND HIDE, AND THEN I CAME BACK HERE.
THEY HAD KILLED EVERYONE EVEN THE INFANTS.
THAT'S WHEN I SUMMONED YOU.
PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO GET HIM BACK. IF THEY FIND HIM, THEY'LL KILL HIM. HE'S ONLY A BOY.
A BOY WHO MAY VERY WELL GROW UP TO BE THE ANTI-CHRIST.
PLEASE, I THOUGHT THAT YOU MORE THAN ANYONE WOULD UNDERSTAND.
DID YOU, NOW? YOU KNOW OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY FATHER, YET STILL YOU IMAGINED THAT I WOULD BE WILLING TO COME TO YOUR AID?
PLEASE...
I CARE NOT FOR YOUR PLANS OR YOUR SLAUGHTERED FRIENDS, YOU FOOL. GOOD RIDDANCE TO THEM, I SAY.
NEVERTHELESS, I WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. AND I WILL FIND THE BOY.
BUT ONLY SO THAT HE MAY DIE AT MY HAND INSTEAD OF SOMEONE ELSE'S.

HEAVEN'S ON FIRE

PART ONE
SAVE THE ANTICHRIST, SAVE THE WORLD

JASON AARON	ROLAND BOSCHI	DAN BROWN	VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA	JAE LEE	SEBASTIAN GIRNER	AXEL ALONSO	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY	ALAN FINE
WRITER	ARTIST	COLORS	LETTERER	COVERS	EDITOR	CONSULTING EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF	PUBLISHER	EXEC. PRODUCER

NOW BEGONE, YOU PATHETIC WORM, OR ELSE REJOIN YOUR COVEN IN THE CIRCLE OF MY FATHER'S KINGDOM RESERVED FOR ALL THOSE IDIOTIC ENOUGH TO HAVE EVER TRUSTED HIM.
YOUR FATHER IS STILL WEAKENED AFTER HIS DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE CURSED GHOST RIDER, BUT REST ASSURED, HE WILL RISE AGAIN.
HELL WILL BE TRIUMPHANT, JUST YOU WAI--
FOOOOOM
MOVE!
ANGELIC ASSASSINS, SLAUGHTERED SATANISTS, A JUNIOR ANTI-CHRIST ON THE RUN...
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THIS IS HEADED?

NOW.
ANGELIC AFFIRMATIONS
NEW AGE GIFT SHOP
the LARGEST COLLECTION of incense, healing stones, and Angel figurines in all of south east Colorado!
ANGEL
HAPPY MOON DAY TO YOU, SIR, AND WELCOME TO ANGELIC AFFIRMATIONS.
CAN I INTEREST YOU IN SOME DIVINATION TOOLS OR OUR FREE FENG SHUI TIPS OR PERHAPS SOME ESSENTIAL OILS DESIGNED TO BALANCE YOUR CHAKRAS?
CUT THE CRAP, LADY. I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT ZADKIEL.
ZADKIEL? YOU MEAN THE ARCHANGEL OF BENEVOLENCE AND MERCY?
NO, NOT THE FAIRY TALE VERSION.
THE REAL ONE.
THE ONE I'M GONNA KILL.

C'MON, SPEAK UP. YOU KNOW WHAT I'M--
GHOOOM
UNHAND THE LADY, YOU FILTHY SON OF AN ORC.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO--
GHOOOM
SHOTGUN LOADED WITH MAGIC CRYSTALS. THAT'S A FIRST.
OW.

OH GOD, IS HE DEAD?
DON'T KNOW. PUT TWO BARRELS OF CALCITE AND QUARTZ IN HIS GUT. YOU ALL RIGHT, BABE?
THAT GUY'S CRAZY. HE WAS SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT THE ANGEL ZAZRIEL.
NO, NOT ZAZRIEL.
SHUNK
ZADKIEL. WE'RE HERE ABOUT ZADKIEL.
WE... UH...WE HAVE SOME FIGURINES IN AISLE 7...
KNOCK IT OFF, WE KNOW YOU PEOPLE WORK FOR HIM. NOW FESS UP AND LET'S--
WHISH
AARGH
THE JIG'S UP, MARTY. THEY'RE ONTO US. LET'S KILL 'EM.

ZADKIEL'S WILL BE DONE.
WHACK
AH, HELL. IT'S HIM.
YEAH. IT'S ME.
WHOOOSH
WE EXPECTED YOU SOONER OR LATER, SKULLHEAD. ZADKIEL SAYS TO REMIND YOU THAT THE DAYS OF THE GHOST RIDER ARE OVER. THIS IS HIS WORLD NOW.
OUR POWER COMES STRAIGHT FROM THE MASTER HIMSELF. SAYS WE'RE TO MAKE YOU BEG BEFORE WE [illegible] YOU [illegible] FROM BONE.

SMASH
ACK...IS THIS WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN MY GRANDFATHER WAS STILL ALIVE?
NOT EXACTLY.
FOOOSH
HE KILLED [illegible] WITH HELLFIRE.
FA-
TOO BAD HE WOULDA LOVED IT.
ZANG

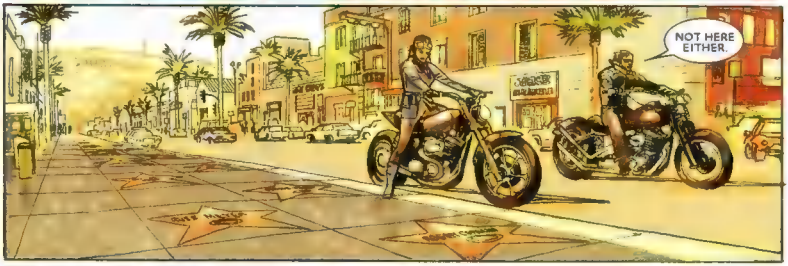
WHAM
WHOOOSH
ZANG
ZING

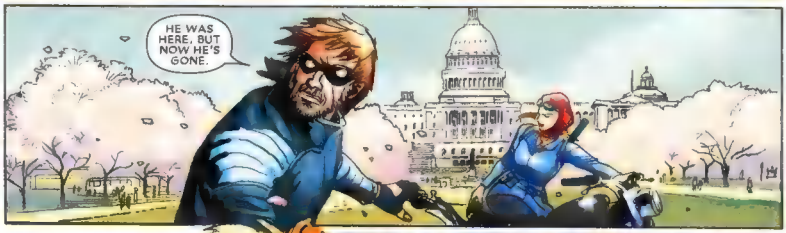
ALL RIGHT, TALK. WHAT'S ZADKIEL'S PLAN?
PLAN? HA! ZADKIEL HAS NO NEED FOR A PLAN. HE'S ALREADY WON.
THE HOLY CITY OF HEAVEN IS IN HIS HANDS. AND THE LONGER HE HOLDS IT, THE MORE HIS POWER GROWS. SOON HE WILL ■ AS GOD, OMNIPOTENT, ALL-POWERFUL.
AND THEN YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL CEASE TO ■. NOT IN ANY GRAND APOCALYPSE BUT ■ THE SIMPLE BLINK OF AN EYE.
ZADKIEL WILL UNMAKE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TREE ALL THE WAY BACK TO WHEN YOUR EARLIEST LITTLE PEA-BRAINED ANCESTOR FIRST FUMBLED HIS WAY UP OUT OF THE MUD.
HE WILL ERASE YOU FROM EXISTENCE. NOT EVEN THE STENCH OF YOU WILL LINGER.
KEEP TALKING.
NO, I THINK WE'VE SAID ENOUGH. YOU CAN WAIT AND SEE FOR YOURS--
HE'S GOING TO CRUSH YOUR BIBLICAL PROPHECIES

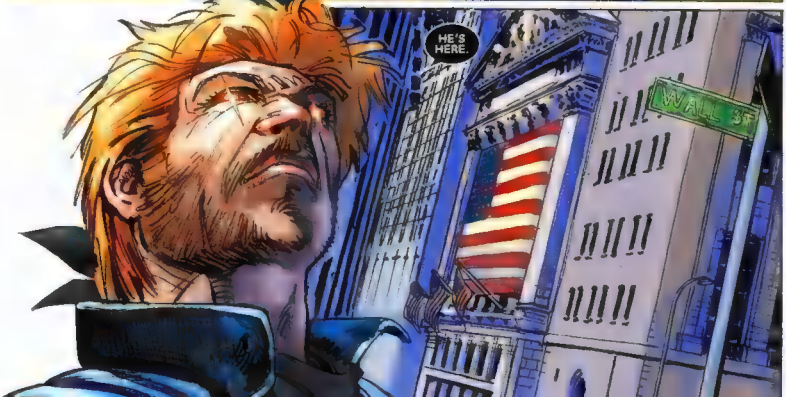
MARTY!
ZADKIEL IS WORKING TO THWART YOUR BIBLICAL PROPHECIES.
NO ARMAGEDDON, NO RAPTURE, NO SECOND COMING. ZADKIEL'S GOING TO STOP ALL THAT FROM EVER HAPPENING.
HE'S GOING TO KILL THE ANTI-CHRIST.
MARTY, SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE!
TAKE US HOME, LORD. WE WISH TO BE WITH THEE, LORD ZADKIEL.
HA HAA HAAHA HAA!!
HURRY, LORD!
THE ANTI-CHRIST ■ ON THE RUN, BUT HE WON'T GET FAR. ZADKIEL'S FORCES WILL TRACK HIM DOWN, JUST YOU WAIT!
YOU'RE DOOMED, BLAZE. BEST TO KILL YOURSELF NOW.
I'M SURE HELL WILL GIVE YOU THE WARMEST OF WELCOMES.

WHAT DID THEY MEAN? WHY WOULD ZADKIEL WANT TO KILL THE ANTI-CHRIST?
ELITE COM
NO ANTI-CHRIST MEANS NO APOCALYPSE. THAT MAKES THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS NULL AND VOID.
ZADKIEL WOULD BE FREE TO WRITE HIS OWN SCRIPT FOR THE END TIMES.
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS WE GOT AN ANTICHRIST TO SAVE.
OH BOY.
THEY SAID HE WAS ALONE AND ON THE RUN. THAT MEANS HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
IF YOU WERE THE MOST *EVIL* PERSON ON EARTH, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

FREMONT
NOPE, NO SIGN OF HIM.
CASINO


NOT HERE EITHER.


HE WAS HERE, BUT NOW HE'S GONE.


HE'S HERE.
WALL ST

I MUST SAY, THIS IS MOST UNUSUAL.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE, WHAT, BARELY TWO WEEKS? YET YOU'VE ALREADY MANAGED TO CLAW YOUR WAY UP THE LADDER TO AN EXECUTIVE POSITION.
MOST UNUSUAL, INDEED.
THAT RAPID ASCENT WAS, OF COURSE, AIDED BY THE TRAGIC SUICIDE OF ALL YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISORS. BUT NEVERTHELESS, YOU ARE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE SHREWDEST, MOST CUTTHROAT INVESTMENT BANKER I HAVE EVER SEEN IN ALL MY YEARS.
MORTIMER J. FOURMANDIZE C.E.O.
I SEE A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE FOR YOU HERE AT OUR COMPANY, YOUNG MR. SATAN.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S PRONOUNCED SHUH-TAN.
IT'S CZECHOSLOVAKIAN.

A. SATAN
NO. YOU LISTEN TO ME, YOU CRETINOUS PUSS-BUCKET...
IF I DON'T HAVE THOSE NUMBERS IN MY INBOX BY TWO O'CLOCK, I WILL COME DOWN THERE AND CRUCIFY YOU, DO YOU HEAR! I WILL AUCTION YOUR CHILDREN ON EBAY AN ORGAN AT A TIME!
GET IT DONE!
YOU MR. SATAN? MR. ANTON SATAN?
WHAT DOES IT SAY ON THE DOOR, GENIUS? CAN'T YOU READ?
AND IT'S PRONOUNCED SHUH-*TAN*.
WELL, HERE'S YOUR ORDER OF BUSINESS CARDS, MR. SHUH-*TAN*.
NO NO NO, WHERE'S MY WATERMARK? THESE ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE WATERMARKS AND RAISED LETTERING!
YES, SIR. LET ME JUST MAKE A NOTE OF THAT.
HAIL, ZADKIEL!

BAM
AAAH!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
JAINE CUTTER. OCCULT TERRORIST.
NOW MOVE YOUR ASS, KID, IF YOU WANNA LIVE TO SEE ARMAGEDDON.
"ANTON SATAN"? REALLY? THAT'S THE BEST YOU COULD COME UP WITH? NO WONDER THEY FOUND YOU SO FAST.
THAT MAN WAS SENT BY ZADKIEL TO KILL ME. WHO SENT YOU?
A SATAN
NOBODY SENT ME. I WORK SOLO.
HISSSSSSS
YOUR GUN IS HISSING.
I KNOW. GET DOWN.
BAM BAM

WHAM
THERE'S A SUPERNATURAL BALANCE THAT MUST BE MAINTAINED. CAN'T HAVE ANYBODY TURNING THIS WORLD INTO THEIR PERSONAL PLAYGROUND. NEITHER DEMONS NOR ANGELS EITHER ONE.
SO YOU SHOOT THEM WITH A GUN?
A BREATHING GUN, YES.
UH-OH.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? THESE TREES WEREN'T HERE BEFORE.
ZADKIEL, HIS POWER'S GROWING. WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK.
TO HELL WITH THIS ZADKIEL! I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT DOG JUST TRY TO STRIKE ME DOWN!
KRA-THOOM

UH, JAINE...
YOU CAN WAKE UP ANY TIME NOW.
ANY TIME AT ALL...

MEANWHILE...
WAKE UP, PAL.
SOUTH NASHVILLE PRISON HOSPITAL
MASSIVE EYEBALL TRAUMA
GET YOUR ASS UP. IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK.
WHAT... WHO'S THERE? WHO IS IT? I CAN'T SEE YOU.
DON'T WORRY, ZADKIEL CAN SEE TO IT YOUR WOUNDS ARE HEALED.
ALL WE'LL NEED IS YOUR ASSURANCE...

THAT YOU'RE ON-BOARD TO HELP US KILL THE GHOST RIDER.
YOU BET YOUR ASS I AM, PAL. THE ALL-NEW ORB IS READY FOR ACTION.
UH, CAN ONE OF YOU JUST FIND ME MY CLOTHES?

To Be Continued...

GHOST WRITERS

Welcome back, flamehead fans. Hope you missed us. We sure missed you guys. Thanks for sticking with us. HEAVEN'S ON FIRE promises to be the biggest Ghost Rider adventure in recent memory. Trust me, you're not gonna wanna miss what comes next. Now make way for the letters.

Hi Jason,

I just wanted to drop you a line to tell you how awesome your run on GHOST RIDER is! I'm a huge fan of the 90s Ghost Rider, so I went totally crazy when Ketch returned. I just love the way you turned him into the antagonist but kept him kind of naïve – it's less jarring and he's a nice parallel to Blaze. I'm really looking forward to where you take him next! Plus, the return of all those great villains, especially Blackout.

In my opinion, the best thing about your writing on the series has been the way you've acknowledged the past continuity, but rather than get mired in it, you've used it to move the entire Ghost Rider mythos forward! For once it doesn't bother me that Noble Kale didn't quite fit in with the Medallion of Power story (though I would like to know what the deal was with Zarathos…) and I'm willing to accept that it was all a lie! And it's not just the old characters I love! Sara, Zadkiel and the Deacon are awesome! There are more flaming skulls than you can shake a stick at (whatever that means)! Plus Cycle Nuns! Nunchuck Nuns! You've injected the whole series with a kind of wackiness and energy that should be part of the story of a flaming skeleton biker!

As a small token of my appreciation, please find enclosed a custom figure of the Ghost Flyer from issue #33. Hope you get a kick out of it!

Until Aunt May becomes a Spirit of Vengeance, make mine Marvel!

Regards,
Dave Harris

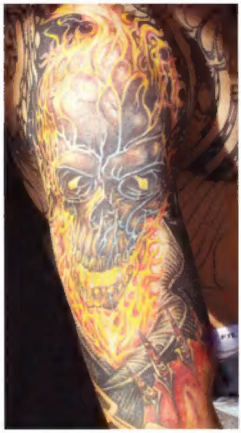
I love the figure, Dave. Let me call Marvel and see if we can't get these on the shelves, along with a talking Knuckles O'Shaugnessy doll, a Shark Rider bath buddy and a Hell Driver and the Devil-Rig action playset.

Dear Ghost Writers
My name is Scott Obregan and I am sixteen years old. I live in Del City, Oklahoma but I'm originally from San Antonio, Texas. I've been reading GHOST RIDER since "Road to Damnation" and "Trail of Tears" and so far it's been friggin' awesome! When I saw Danny Ketch in issue #34, I thought "sweeeeet." I just had to draw a picture of him and his all-new look! Keep up the awesome work and please print my letter.

Sincerely,
Scott Oberon

Slick version of Ketch, Scott. Keep up the great work. I wonder where ole Danny Ketch is right about now? Guess we'll have to wait until next issue to see.

Ghost Rider tattoos! I always love getting photos of Ghost Rider tattoos. A few months ago I was doing a signing at the shop of awesomeness called Daydreams Comics in Iowa City when a couple of guys came in and took their shirts off (I promise that doesn't usually happen at my signings). Turns out this one guy, Daniel Babb, has his whole torso covered with Marvel Comics characters, from Dr. Strange to Man-Thing to the Green Goblin. And on his arm is this super-sweet Ghost Rider. The tattoo artist responsible is David Rich of Exile Tattoo in Iowa City. Thanks for sharing, guys. I'll be back soon to get the big Angar the Screamer tat on my back finished up. I can't wait.



Well that's all we got time for this month, friends and neighbors. Be sure to come back next time, when we'll see someone take a baseball bat to Master Pandemonium, as well as more of Kid Blackheart's freewheeling adventures on Wall Street and the heartfelt reunion of former lovers Jaine Cutter and Hellstorm, The Son of Satan. Should be touching. And hey look, is that the all new Vengeance joining the party? Hoo boy.

Jason Aaron
July 2009

"Well I hope we're not too messianic or a trifle too satanic."

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